Name Date

NASA's KSNN

KIDS SCIENCE NEWS NETWORK

Cling On

PURPOSE

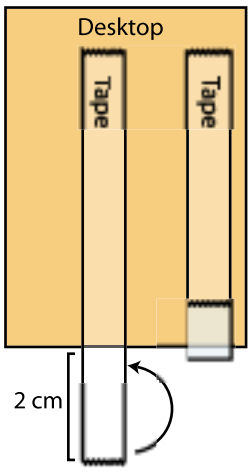
To discover static electricity

MATERIALS

transparent tape in dispenser
journal

PROCEDURE

Diagram 1



1. Working with a partner, tear two strips of tape 10 cm long from the tape dispenser.
2. Stick them to your desktop, leaving about 2 cm hanging over the edge.
3. Fold the edge back so there's a nonstick part to hold onto. See diagram 1.
4. Hold onto the nonstick parts and slowly peel the strips off the desk so that the tape doesn't curl.
5. Hold the two strips by their ends and bring them close together (nonstick sides). What happens? Record your observations in your journal.
6. Have your partner gently rub a finger over both strips several times.
7. Bring the strips together again. What happened? Record your observations in your journal.
8. Peel both strips off your desk and then gently peel both strips apart. Predict what will happen when you bring the two strips together.
9. Test your prediction and record your observations.
10. Have your partner rub the strips several times again and predict what will happen when you bring them together after they have been stroked.
11. Test your prediction and record your observations.

CONCLUSION

1. What happened when you brought the strips of tape near each other the first time? Why?
2. What happened after the tape was rubbed by your partner's finger? Why?
3. What happened in the second experiment when the strips were brought together? Why?
4. What other things have you seen that react as the tape does?

EXTENSIONS

1. Place some plastic drinking straws on a table. Charge a plastic pen with static by rubbing it with a wool cloth. Place the pen close to the straws and observe what happens.
2. Charge various types of hairbrushes and combs made from different materials such as plastic, wood, or metal.
3. Brainstorm for ideas about how static electricity is produced in nature.